

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00803

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SP, SS

1. SUMMARY: THE POLISARIO HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE AIMED AGAINST SPANISH RATIFICATION OF THE MOROCCAN-SPANISH FISHING AGREEMENT. THE GOS HAS NOT YET REACTED, AND MAY CHOOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY. END SUMMARY.

2. "EVERY COMMERCIAL OR FISHING AGREEMENT OVER THE RICHES OF THE SAHARA MADE BETWEEN AGGRESSOR COUNTRIES (AGAINST THE SAHARA) WILL BE CONSIDERED AN AGREEMENT OF AGGRESSION, AND CONSEQUENTLY MADE INTO A MILITARY OBJECTIVE OF OUR LIBERATION ARMY", STATES A POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE SENT TO THE SPANISH NEWS AGENCY CIFRA AND REPORTED IN THE PRESS HERE OVER THE WEEKEND. THE COMMUNIQUE WARNS THAT THE GOS WILL "ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT OF AGGRESSION", AND CLAIMS FURTHER THAT SPANISH "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" AND LABOR UNIONS WILL ALSO HOLD THE RESPONSIBILITY IF THEY "SIT WITH ARMS FOLDED" WHILE "WORKERS OF THE FISHING SECTOR" ARE SENT TO SAHARAN WATERS. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO
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RAILS AGAINST SPAIN'S REMAINING IN THE "FRENCH-MOROCCAN ORBIT", AND ACCUSES THE GOS OF VIOLATING ITS DECLARED EMBARGO ON NEW ARMS CONTRACTS FOR MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE IS AIMED AGAINST RATIFICATION OF THE MOROCCAN-SPANISH FISHING AGREEMENT, WHICH IS BECOMING A PROMINENT TOPIC HERE: THE PRO-POLISARIO PSOE HAS

ALREADY MANIFESTED ITS INTENTION OF FIGHTING RATIFICATION. WHILE THE GOS HAS NOT MADE THE AGREEMENT PUBLIC, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED, THE AGREEMENT IS UNDERSTOOD TO ALLOW FOR SPANISH FISHING IN MOROCCAN WATERS, AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION BY SPANISH-SHIP-BUILDERS (WHO IN GENERAL NEED BUSINESS) OF BOATS FOR THE MOROCCAN FISHING FLEET. OPPONENTS OF RATIFICATION CHARGE THAT AMPLIFICATION OF THE MOROCCAN FISHING FLEET WILL PUT SPANISH FISHERMEN OUT OF BUSINESS, WHILE PROPONENTS ASSERT THAT FAILURE TO RATIFY WILL SPELL AN END TO MOROCCAN TOLERANCE OF SPANISH FISHING AND RESULT IN GREATER, AND MORE IMMEDIATE, DAMAGE TO THE SAME GROUP.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (CAJAL) TOLD US THE MINISTRY HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON ANY PARTICULAR REACTION TO THE COMMUNIQUE, AND HE GUESSED THAT THERE MIGHT BE REASONS OF POLICY (AND, WE INTERPRET, POLITICS) FOR THE GOS TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HOWEVER, CAJAL SAID, HE WAS HIMSELF SURPRISED AT THE POLISARIO ACTION, CONSIDERING THE TOLERANCE THE GOS HAS ALLOWED POLISARIO REPRESENTATION AND ACTIVITIES HERE, AND REALLY FOUND IT UNACCEPTABLE. STABLER

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